

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

MARK W. DOBRONSKI,
an individual,

Plaintiff,

Case: 2:25-cv-10537
Assigned To : Berg, Terrence G.
Referral Judge: Patti, Anthony P.
Assign. Date : 2/25/2025
Description: CMP-DOBRONSKI V.
BROOKSTONE FUNDING. INC
(CMS)

v.

BROOKSTONE FUNDING INC.,
a New York corporation,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, MARK W. DOBRONSKI, appearing *in propria persona*, and for his complaint against the named Defendants alleges:

1. This matter arises under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (“TCPA”), 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.*, and the Michigan Home Solicitation Sales Act (“MHSSA”), M.C.L. § 445.101, *et seq.*

Parties

2. Plaintiff is an individual, of the age of majority, a citizen of the United States of America, has a domicile and has a place of business in Orange County, Florida, has a residence and place of business in Washtenaw County, Michigan, and has a place of business in Wayne County, Michigan.

3. Defendant BROOKESTONE FUNDING INC. (“Brookestone”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of New York, with a principal office located at 2002 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11223-2329.

Jurisdiction

4. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

5. This court has special or limited personal jurisdiction over Defendant Brookestone, pursuant to M.C.L. § 600.715, as a result of each defendant or its agent: transacting any business within the state; or, doing or causing any act to be done, or consequences to occur, in the state resulting in an action for tort.

Venue

6. Venue is proper in this Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), as the tortious or illegal telephone calls complained of herein were directed to a telephone number with a Michigan area code, and were received by Plaintiff at his residence in this judicial district, to wit: in Washtenaw County, Michigan.

Preliminary Statement

7. As the Supreme Court recently explained, “Americans passionately disagree amount many things. But they are largely united in their disdain for robocalls.” *Barr v. American Association of Political Consultants LLC*, 140 S. Ct. 2335, 2343 (2020).

8. The Federal Government receives a staggering number of complaints about

robocalls – 3.7 million complaints in 2019 alone. *Id.*

9. In response to widespread public outrage over intrusive telemarketing calls to homes and businesses, the United States Congress acted to prevent persons, like Defendant, from invading American citizen's privacy and to prevent abusive "robocalls" by enacting the TCPA.

10. According to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), "unwanted calls and texts are the number one complaint to the FCC."

11. In regard to such telephone solicitations, Senator Hollings of South Carolina, the primary sponsor of the TCPA, explained, "computerized calls are the scourge of modern civilization. They wake us up in the morning; they interrupt our dinner at night; they force the sick and elderly out of bed; they hound us until we want to rip the telephone right out of the wall... these computerized telephone calls threaten our personal safety... These machines are out of control, and their use is growing by 30 percent every year. It is telephone terrorism, and it has got to stop...." *See In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, 17 FCC Rcd. 17459, 17474, fn. 90 (2002), quoting 137 Cong. Rec. 30,821-30,822 (Nov. 7, 1991).

12. According to YouMail, Inc., a company which tracks robocall activity and publishes the YouMail Robocall Index, during calendar year 2023 alone, American consumers were bombarded with over 55.05 *billion* robocalls; an average of over 165

robocalls to each and every man, woman, and child.¹

13. In 2021, nearly 1 in 3 Americans say they have fallen victim to a phone scam in the past year, with reported losses to phone scams exceeding \$29.8 Billion.²

14. Congress has found that interstate telemarketing fraud has become a problem of such magnitude that the resources of the Government are not sufficient to ensure adequate consumer protection from such fraud.

15. As a result, in enacting the TCPA, Congress intentionally created a legally enforceable bounty system, not unlike *qui tam* statutes, to incentivize the assistance of aggrieved private citizens to act as “private attorneys general” in enforcing federal law.

Telephone Consumer Protection Act

16. In 1991, Congress enacted the TCPA to restrict the use of sophisticated telemarketing equipment that could target millions of consumers *en masse*. Congress found that these calls were not only a nuisance and invasion of privacy to consumers specifically, but were also a threat to interstate commerce generally. *See* S. Rep. No. 102-178, at 2-3, 1991 U.S.C.C.A.N. 1968, 1969-71, 1991 WL 211220 (1991).

17. The TCPA imposes restrictions on the use of automated telephone equipment. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

18. Pursuant to authority delegated by Congress to the FCC under the TCPA

¹ www.robocallindex.com

² www.cndb.com/2021/06/29/americans-list-billions-of-dollars-to-phone-scams-over-the-past-year.html

at 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(2), the FCC has adopted regulations to implement the aforesaid restrictions on use of automated telephone equipment. The TCPA implementing regulations are promulgated at 47 C.F.R. 64.1200(a), *et seq.*

19. As part of the restrictions on use of automated telephone equipment, Congress created a private right of action for aggrieved persons to received \$500.00 in damages for *each* violation of the subsection of the statute or the regulations prescribed thereunder, which amount the court may treble if the court finds that the defendant willfully or knowingly violated the statute or the regulations. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

20. Additionally, the Congress also sought to protect subscriber privacy rights, and directed the FCC to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to compare and evaluate alternative methods and procedures, and to develop proposed regulations to implement the methods and procedures that the FCC determines are most efficient to accomplish the need to protect telephone subscribers' privacy rights to avoid receiving telephone solicitations to which they object. 47 C.F.R. § 227(c)(1). The FCC conducted such a rulemaking and implemented regulations to protect telephone subscribers' privacy rights. See *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, 68 FR 44144, 2003 WL 21713245 (2003).

21. As part of the protection of subscriber privacy rights, Congress created a private right of action for aggrieved persons to receive \$500.00 in damages for *each* violation of the subsection of the statute or the regulations prescribed thereunder,

which amount the court may treble if the court finds that the defendant willfully or knowingly violated the statute or the regulations. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).

Michigan Home Solicitation Sales Act

22. The Michigan Legislature has also enacted statutes governing and restricting telephone solicitors from making or causing to be made a telephone solicitation to a residential telephone subscriber. The restrictions include a prohibition on telephone solicitations using in whole or in part a recorded message. M.C.L. § 445.111(a)(1). A telephone solicitor shall not make a telephone solicitation to a residential telephone subscriber whose name and residential telephone number appears on the national do-not-call list. M.C.L. § 445.111(a)(4). Telephone solicitors must properly identify themselves and their organization. M.C.L. § 445.111b(1) and (2). Telephone solicitors may not block or otherwise interfere with the caller ID function of the telephone. M.C.L. § 445.111b(3). Further, telephone solicitors may not engage in specified unfair or deceptive acts or practices as set forth in the act. M.C.L. § 445.111c.

23. The MHSSA provides that a person who suffers a loss as a result of violation of the MHSSA may bring an action to recover actual damages or \$250.00, together with reasonable attorney fees. M.C.L. § 445.111c(3).

General Allegations

24. Plaintiff's residential and cellular telephone lines have been besieged with telemarketing calls hawking such things as alarm systems, Google listings, automobile warranties, health insurance, life insurance, credit cards, and even financial miracles

from God. Some calls are blatant scams, including calls purportedly from the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and other government agencies, some claiming that arrest warrants have been issued against Plaintiff for alleged drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

25. Plaintiff's cellular telephone number is 734-***-9671.

26. Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671 is listed on the National Do Not Call Registry maintained by the United States Federal Trade Commission pursuant to 16 C.F.R. Part 310 and has been so listed continuously since at least December 9, 2004, and at all times subsequent thereto and relevant hereto.

27. Plaintiff uses his cellular telephone primarily for personal, family, and household communications, and not for business purposes.

28. By listing his cellular telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry, Plaintiff has given constructive notice to the World, including the Defendant, that Plaintiff does not wish to receive telephone solicitations or robocalls at his residential telephone number.

29. Courts are legally bound to give great deference to the FCC's interpretations of the TCPA and its own regulations. See *FCC v. WNCN Listeners Guild*, 450 U.S. 582, 598, 101 S.Ct. 1266, 1276, 67 L.Ed.2d 521 (1981) ("the construction of a statute by those charged with its execution should be followed unless there are compelling indications that it is wrong ...").

30. The FCC has issued a declaratory ruling defining "called party" as "the

subscriber, i.e., the consumer assigned the telephone number dialed and billed for the call, or the non-subscriber customary user of a telephone number included in a family or business calling plan.” *In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, CG Docket No. 02–278, WC Docket No. 07–135, FCC 15–72, 2015 WL 4387780, at *26 ¶ 73 (2015).

31. Plaintiff is the customary user of the called telephone line, is the one that was the actual recipient of the telephone calls at issue in this complaint, and suffered the nuisance and invasion of privacy of same. Thus, Plaintiff has standing to bring this action for alleged violations of TCPA’s provisions. See *Leyse v. Bank of America Nat. Ass’n*, 804 F.3d 316, 324 (3rd Cir., 2015).

32. The FCC has ruled that wireless subscribers who ask to be put on the national do-not-call list are presumed to be “residential subscribers.” *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the TCPA*, 18 FCC Rcd. 14014, 14039, 2003 WL 21517853, at *14, ¶ 36 (2003).

33. A text message to a cellular telephone qualifies as a “call” within the compass of the TCPA. *Campbell-Ewald Co. v. Gomez*, 136 S.Ct. 663, 667, 577 U.S. 153, 156 (2016).

34. At no time relevant hereto has Plaintiff or any other authorized person requested, consented, permitted, or authorized the contact from the Defendant.

35. At no time has Plaintiff provided permission to the Defendant to engage in telephone solicitation with the Plaintiff via telephone.

36. At no time has Plaintiff provided “prior express consent” or “prior express written consent” (as those terms are defined under the TCPA and as interpreted by the FCC) for the Defendant or anyone acting on behalf of the Defendant to initiate any telephone call that includes or introduces an advertisement or constitutes telemarketing, using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice, to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number.

37. At no time has Plaintiff had an “established business relationship” (as that term is defined under the TCPA and as interpreted by the FCC) with the Defendant.

38. The FCC has declared that a necessary element for a person to provide “consent” is that the person must knowingly and voluntarily provide the telephone number at which they are authorizing telemarketing calls to be received at. For example, capturing a caller’s telephone number by a Caller ID or ANI device cannot be considered consent to receive telemarketing calls. *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the TCPA*, 7 FCC Rcd. 8752, 8769, 1992 WL 690928, at *11, ¶ 31 (1992).

39. The FCC has further declared that persons who knowingly release their phone numbers have in effect given their invitation or permission to be called at the number which they have given, if the caller is making calls within the scope of the consent given, and absent instructions to the contrary. *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the TCPA*, 30 FCC Rcd. 7961, 8028, 2015 WL 4387780, at *47, ¶ 141 (2015).

40. Similarly, for purposes of an “established business relationship,” the FCC has declared that a consumer inquiry cannot be considered to create a business relationship where the consumer's number has been captured absent that consumer's express invitation or permission to be contacted at the captured number. *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the TCPA*, 7 FCC Rcd. 8752, 8771, 1992 WL 690928, at *13, n. 67 (1992).

41. At no time has Plaintiff released his phone number to any of the Defendants in order to have given invitation or permission to be called at that number.

42. Consent cannot be “presumed.” The TCPA and the Commission's rules plainly require express consent, not implied or “presumed” consent. *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the TCPA*, 30 FCC Rcd. 7961, 7991, 2015 WL 4387780, at *20, ¶ 52 (FCC, 2015).

43. The FCC has declared that “[p]urporting to obtain consent during the call... does not constitute the *prior* consent necessary to deliver the message in the first place as the request... is part of the telemarketing.” *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the TCPA*, 18 FCC Rcd. 14014, 14019, 2003 WL 21517853, at *49, ¶ 142 (2003) [Emphasis as in original].

44. The TCPA places no affirmative obligation on a called party to opt out of calls to which he or she never consented. *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the TCPA*, 30 FCC Rcd. 7961, 8004, 2015 WL 4387780, at *29, ¶ 81 (2015).

45. The FCC has clarified that sellers may be held vicariously liable for

violations of the TCPA by third-party telemarketers that initiate calls to market the seller's products or services, declaring as follows:

“[A] company on whose behalf a telephone solicitation is made bears the responsibility for any violation of our telemarketing rules and calls placed by a third party on behalf of that company are treated as if the company itself placed the call.”

In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, 20 FCC Rcd. 13664, 13667, 2005 WL 1981564, at *3, ¶ 7 (2005).

46. A seller may be liable for violations by its representatives under a broad range of agency principles, including not only formal agency, but also principles of apparent authority and ratification. *In re Dish Network*, 28 FCC Rcd. 6574, 6584, 2013 WL 1934349, at *9, ¶ 28 (2013).

47. A seller would be responsible under the TCPA for the unauthorized conduct of a third-party telemarketer that is otherwise authorized to market on the seller's behalf if the seller knew (or reasonably should have known) that the telemarketer was violating the TCPA on the seller's behalf and the seller failed to take effective steps within its power to force the telemarketer to cease that conduct. *In re Dish Network*, 28 FCC Rcd. 6574, 6592, 2013 WL 1934349, at *15, ¶ 46 (2013).

48. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 217, the act, omission, or failure of any officer, agent, or other person acting for or employed by an common carrier or user, acting within the scope of his employment, shall in every case also be deemed to be the act,

omission, or failure of such carrier or user as well as that of the person.

49. When considering individual corporate officer liability, other Courts have agreed that a corporate officer involved in the telemarketing at issue may be personally liable under the TCPA. *See, e.g., Jackson Five Star Catering, Inc. v. Beason*, No. 10-10010, 2013 WL 5966340, *4 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 8, 2013) (“[M]any courts have held that corporate actors can be individually liable for violating the TCPA where they had direct, personal participating in or personally authorized the conduct found to have violated the statute.”) (internal citation omitted); *Maryland v. Universal Elections*, 787 F. Supp. 2d 408, 415-16 (D.MD. 2011) (“If an individual acting on behalf of a corporation could avoid individual liability, the TCPA would lose much of its force.”).

50. It is well settled under Michigan law that corporate employees and officials are personally liable for all tortious and criminal acts in which they participate, regardless of whether they are acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a corporation. A corporate officer or director is, in general, personally liable for all torts which he authorizes or directs or in which he participates, notwithstanding that he acted as an agent for the corporation and not on his own behalf.

51. For each and every call alleged herein initiated to Plaintiff’s telephone line, Plaintiff suffered the injury of invasion of privacy and intrusion on Plaintiff’s right of seclusion.

52. For each and every call alleged herein initiated to Plaintiff’s telephone line, Plaintiff suffered the injury of the occupation of the telephone line by unwelcome calls,

making the phone unavailable for legitimate callers or outgoing calls, including emergency calls, when the telephone line was seized by Defendants' calls.

53. For each and every call alleged herein initiated to Plaintiff's telephone line, Defendants caused an injury in the form of a nuisance and annoyance to the Plaintiff. For calls that were answered, Plaintiff had to go to the unnecessary trouble of answering them. Even for unanswered calls, Plaintiff had to deal with missed call notifications and call logs that reflected the unwanted calls. This also impaired the usefulness of these features on Plaintiff's telephone, which features are designed to inform the user of important missed communications.

54. Each and every call placed without consent by Defendants alleged herein to Plaintiff's telephone lines resulted in the injury of a trespass to Plaintiff's chattel, namely Plaintiff's telephone line and its telephone services.

55. For purposes of the TCPA, the FCC has defined "willfully or knowingly" to mean that the violator knew that he was doing the act in question, in this case, initiating a telephone solicitation, irrespective of any intent to violate the law. A violator need not know that his action or inaction constitutes a violation; ignorance of the law is not a defense or mitigating circumstance.

The Scheme

56. Defendant Brookestone is a small business funding lender that solicits funding solutions to consumers throughout the United States.

57. Defendant Brookestone seeks out consumers and/or businesses in need of

a loan and will then either enter into a direct lending relationship or facilitate a lending relationship between the consumer/business and a third-party lender.

58. As part of its marketing scheme, Defendant Brookestone relies upon telemarketing as a cost effective method of soliciting consumers across the United States.

59. Defendant Brookestone initiates telephone calls *en masse* using automated telephone dialing systems which have the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called using a random or sequential number generator to dial such numbers, to solicit consumers.

60. Defendants obtain lists of names and telephone numbers of small business owners, input the lists into the automated telephone dialing system, and the automated system will then, using the random or sequential number generator, select numbers from the lists and dial them and transmit SMS text messages to the consumers.

61. Subsequently, where Defendant Brookestone, through its SMS text messaging, has identified a potential small business owner, a live representative from Defendant Brookestone will then telephone the consumer.

62. Defendant Brookestone does not scrub their outbound telephone lists against the National Do Not Call Registry.

63. Defendant Brookestone does not have a written do not call policy, as is evidenced by the fact that, when Plaintiff requested a Brookestone representative to provide the policy, the representative was uncertain as to what that was and could not

provide it.

Call 1

64. On December 27, 2024 at 1:22 P.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation and sending of an SMS text message to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

65. The caller identification number displayed was 541-394-5298.

66. The SMS text message read:

Hey,
Hope all is well.

Reaching out regarding your inquiry - 2 days
left for our No Fee special !!

Around 2.3M left - Let me know what amount
and term you're looking for, and we'll make it
happen.

Reply STOP to opt-out

67. Being that the sender did not identify himself/herself, Plaintiff responded:

Sorry, but who are you?

Call 2

68. On December 27, 2024 at 1:26 P.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation and sending of an SMS text message to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

69. The caller identification number displayed was 541-394-5298.

70. The SMS text message read:

Brookestone funding, we're direct lenders that provide Term loans up to 36 months, and line of credits up to 500K starting at 5%. What's your target amount?

71. Inasmuch as Plaintiff is retired and did not make any inquiry about a loan, Plaintiff responded:

Did I send you a loan application?

Call 3

72. On December 27, 2024 at 1:29 P.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation and sending of an SMS text message to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

73. The caller identification number displayed was 541-394-5298.

74. The SMS text message read:

Not yet, what's your best email ?

75. Solely for purposes of better identifying the caller, and to better ascertain whether Plaintiff was being victimized in some sort of fraudulent scheme, Plaintiff responded with:

DavidHarlaw@memopad.us

which is a controlled email address.

Calls 4 and 5

76. On December 27, 2024 at 1:32 P.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or

caused the initiation and sending of an SMS text message to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

77. The caller identification number displayed was 541-394-5298.

78. The SMS text message read:

Sent over your application link coming from
John@brookestonefunding.com

79. Which SMS text message was immediately followed by another SMS text message which read:

Received it?

80. Plaintiff responded:

I am confused. How did you get my number
and know that I was looking for a loan?

81. Plaintiff received no message in reply to the foregoing response.
Call 6

82. On December 30, 2024 at 9:27 A.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation and sending of an SMS text message to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

83. The caller identification number displayed was 541-394-5298.

84. The SMS text message read:

Any updates on your application?

85. Plaintiff did not respond to the message.

Call 6

86. On January 2, 2025 at 10:35 A.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation and sending of an SMS text message to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

87. The caller identification number displayed was 541-394-5298.

88. The SMS text message read:

Good morning, any updates?

89. Plaintiff did not respond to the message.

Call 7

90. On January 14, 2025 at 5:54 P.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation of a telemarketing call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

91. The caller identification number displayed was 718-300-2661, with no caller identification name information.

92. Upon answering the telephone call by saying "hello", Plaintiff heard a click, followed by a brief period of silence, and then a live male voice could be heard saying: "Hey, how is everything going? Every day above ground is a blessing. This is Al Katz, we spoke a couple weeks ago on December 27 about a loan for the business."

93. Plaintiff had not previously spoken with Al Katz.

94. Katz represented that he had, on December 27, 2024, sent a loan application form to Plaintiff's controlled email address: DavidHarlow@memopad.us.

95. Plaintiff did not receive any email on December 27, 2024 addressed to the

controlled email address.

96. Katz represented that he had received information “from a few other brokers” that Plaintiff was seeking a loan.

97. Katz represented that he had analyzed Plaintiff’s business and the loan application and had determined that Plaintiff was eligible for a loan of approximately \$350,000.00.

98. Given that Plaintiff had retired approximately 3 years earlier, Plaintiff had not recently submitted any loan applications to any loan brokers or financial institutions.

99. On January 14, 2025 at 6:02 P.M., Katz sent an email and a loan application form to Plaintiff’s controlled email address with the subject line “The Dove Has Landed”.

100. The subject email identified Katz as “Senior Funder” for Brookestone Funding.

101. At no time during the conversation did Plaintiff disclose his telephone number to Katz.

Call 8

102. On January 14, 2025 at 6:32 P.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation of a telemarketing call to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

103. The caller identification number displayed was 718-300-2661, with no

caller identification name information.

104. Upon answering the telephone call by saying “hello”, Plaintiff heard a click, followed by a brief period of silence, and then a live male voice could be heard saying: “Hey, Mark? How you doing Mark?” Although the caller did not identify himself, Plaintiff recognized the voice as being Katz.

105. Katz indicating that he was preparing to leave work for the day and he wanted to receive and review a loan application from Plaintiff before leaving. Plaintiff explained that he was busy doing other things and would look the application over later.

106. At no time during the conversation did Plaintiff disclose his telephone number to Katz.

Call 9

107. On January 15, 2025 at 10:09 A.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation of a telemarketing call to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

108. The caller identification number displayed was 718-300-2661, with no caller identification name information.

109. Upon answering the telephone call by saying “hello”, Plaintiff heard a click, followed by a brief period of silence, and then a live male voice could be heard saying: “Mark? How you doing” and identified himself as “Al Katz with Brookestone.”

110. Katz was pushing Plaintiff to submit a loan application.

111. Plaintiff inquired of Katz as to how he had obtained Plaintiff's name and telephone number, to which Katz responded that he had received a lead from Lending Tree or Lendio within the last month.

112. Katz represented that Brookestone was a "private community bank."

113. The State of New York, Department of Financial Services, does not list Brookestone as being registered as a banking institution.

114. Katz represented to Plaintiff that Brookestone uses an automated telephone dialing system that takes a list of leads and all Katz has to do is press a single button and the computer system dials the telephone numbers for him and connects him when the called party answers.

115. Plaintiff asked Katz to send to Plaintiff's email address, a copy of Brookestone's written do not call policy, and a copy of the written consent that Lending Tree or Lendio had provided indicating invitation or permission to call Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

116. Katz did not send a written do not call policy, nor the purported consent.

117. At no time during the conversation did Plaintiff disclose his telephone number to Katz.

Call 10

118. On January 16, 2025 at 10:27 A.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation of a telemarketing call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number

734-***-9671.

119. The caller identification number displayed was 718-300-2661, with no caller identification name information.

120. Upon answering the telephone call by saying “hello”, Plaintiff heard a click, followed by a brief period of silence, and then a live male voice could be heard saying: “Hey, Mark, how’s everything going?... This is Al Katz.”

121. Katz was, again, pushing Plaintiff to submit a loan application.

122. Plaintiff told Katz that Plaintiff was busy and could not deal with this matter at this time.

123. At no time during the conversation did Plaintiff disclose his telephone number to Katz.

Call 11

124. On January 17, 2025 at 2:03 P.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation of a telemarketing call to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

125. The caller identification number displayed was 718-300-2661, with no caller identification name information.

126. Upon answering the telephone call by saying “hello”, Plaintiff heard a click, followed by a brief period of silence, and then a live male voice could be heard saying: “Yeah, brother, you don’t have my number saved by now?... This is Albert Katz from Brookestone.”

127. Katz was pushing Plaintiff to submit a loan application, indicating that he was trying to get Plaintiff approved for a loan of \$400,000 to \$500,000.

128. Plaintiff told Katz that Plaintiff was busy and could not deal with this matter at this time.

129. At no time during the conversation did Plaintiff disclose his telephone number to Katz.

Call 12

130. On January 21, 2025 at 9:38 A.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation of a telemarketing call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

131. The caller identification number displayed was 718-300-2661, with no caller identification name information.

132. Upon answering the telephone call by saying "hello", Plaintiff heard a click, followed by a brief period of silence, and then a live male voice could be heard saying: "Good morning Mark, how you doing? How was you week?" The caller did not identify by name or provide a company name, but Plaintiff recognized the voice as being Katz.

133. Katz asked if Plaintiff had received the gift package that he had allegedly sent saying "free loan." Katz then stated that he was kidding and again was pressing Plaintiff to submit a loan application.

134. At no time during the conversation did Plaintiff disclose his telephone

number to Katz.

Call 13

135. On January 27, 2025 at 11:14 A.M., Defendant Brookestone initiated or caused the initiation of a telemarketing call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number 734-***-9671.

136. The caller identification number displayed was 718-300-2661, with no caller identification name information.

137. Upon answering the telephone call by saying "hello", Plaintiff heard a click, followed by a brief period of silence, and then a live male voice could be heard saying: "Mark? How you doing, brother? You still don't have my number saved? This is Al Katz, here. You were looking for about 500 thousand."

138. Katz was pushing Plaintiff to submit a loan application.

139. Plaintiff told Katz that Plaintiff was busy and that he would call Katz back when he was not occupied, which would be about two weeks.

140. At no time during the conversation did Plaintiff disclose his telephone number to Katz.

Subsequent Investigation

141. Subsequent investigation has disclosed that Katz holds himself on social media as the "founder" of Brookestone.³

³ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/al-katz-781213288/>

142. Subsequent investigation has disclosed that Brookestone has, as recently as September 23, 2024, been named as a defendant in a class action alleging similar violations of the TCPA as in this case. Thus, at the time of the calls alleged herein, the violations by Brookestone were willful and/or knowing as Brookestone clearly had notice of its illegal conduct, but had taken no action to curtail its illegal telemarketing activities.⁴

COUNT I
TCPA VIOLATION - AUTOMATED CALL

143. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 142, *supra*.

144. The use of an automatic telephone dialing system is evident in the SMS text messages received in Calls 1 and 2, *supra*, as the messages were generic and impersonal. Further, the fact that Plaintiff's inquiry message sent during Call 5, *supra*, was not responded to also infers the use of automated intelligence (AI); the AI system did not have a pre-programmed response for the inquiry..

145. As to Calls 7 through 13, *supra*, Katz admitted that the telemarketing calls that he initiates utilize an automatic telephone dialing system.

146. Each of Calls 1 through 13, *supra*, were in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(a)(1)(iii), as Defendant or Defendant's agent initiated a telemarketing call to a cellular telephone line using an automatic dialing system without the prior express consent of the called party and there being no emergency.

⁴ *Ehde v. Brookstone Funding Inc.*, Case No. 24-cv-06676 (E.D. N.Y.)

147. The aforesaid violations of the TCPA were willful and/or knowing as is evidenced by the repetitive number of calls, and the fact that Plaintiff had made a STOP demand during Call 1.

COUNT II
TCPA VIOLATION - AUTOMATED CALL

148. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 142, *supra*.

149. Additionally, or in the alternative, each of Calls 1 through 13, *supra*, were in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(a)(2), as Defendant or Defendant's agent initiated a telemarketing call to a residential telephone line using an automatic dialing system without the prior express written consent of the called party and there being no emergency.

150. The aforesaid violations of the TCPA were willful and/or knowing as is evidenced by the repetitive number of calls.

COUNT III
TCPA VIOLATION - DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

151. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 142, *supra*.

152. At no time did Plaintiff consent to an "established business relationship" with any of the Defendants as Plaintiff never provided his telephone number to the Defendant or Defendant's agent to call.

153. Each of Calls 1 through 13, *supra*, were in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2), as Defendants or Defendants' agent initiated a telephone solicitation to

a residential telephone number listed on the National Do Not Call Registry of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations.

154. The aforesaid violations of the TCPA were willful and/or knowing as is evidenced by the repeated number of calls.

COUNT IV
TCPA VIOLATION - NO DNC PROCEDURES

155. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 142, *supra*.

156. No person or entity shall initiate any call for telemarketing purposes to a residential telephone subscriber unless such person has instituted procedures for maintaining a list of persons who request not to receive telemarketing calls made by on behalf of that person or entity. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d).

157. The fact that Brookestone has not instituted such procedures is evident from the number of violations disclosed in this Complaint, and the fact that Katz was unable to provide a written do-not-call policy.

158. Each of Calls 1 through 13, *supra*, were in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(4), as Defendant or Defendant's agent initiated the calls for telemarketing purposes without there having been instituted procedures for maintaining a list of persons who request not to receive telemarketing calls made on behalf of that person or entity.

159. The aforesaid violations of the TCPA were willful and/or knowing as is evidenced by the repeated number of calls.

COUNT V
TCPA VIOLATION - NO WRITTEN DNC POLICY

160. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 142, *supra*.

161. Call 9, *supra*, was in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(1), as Defendant did not provide a copy of Defendant's written do not call policy in response to Plaintiff's demand for a copy of same.

162. The aforesaid violation of the TCPA were willful and/or knowing as is evidenced by the repeated number of calls with violations.

COUNT VI
TCPA VIOLATION - FAILURE TO IDENTIFY

163. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 14240, *supra*.

164. Each of Calls 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13, *supra*, were in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(4), as Defendants or Defendants' agent did not provide Plaintiff with the name of the individual caller and/or the name of the person or entity on whose behalf the call was being made, and a telephone number or address at which the persona or entity may be contacted.

165. The aforesaid violations of the TCPA were willful and/or knowing as is evidenced by the repeated number of calls.

COUNT VII
MHSSA VIOLATION

166. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 142, *supra*.

167. Each of Calls 1 though 13, *supra*, were in violation of M.C.L. §

445.111a(5), as Defendant and/or Defendant's agent made a solicitation to a residential telephone subscriber whose name and residential telephone number is on the federal do-not-call list; and each of Calls 1, 3, 5 through 8, 10, 12 and 13, *supra*, were in violation of M.C.L. § 445.111b(1), as Defendant and/or Defendant's agent did not, at the beginning of the telephone solicitation, state his or her name and the full name of the organization on whose behalf the call was initiated.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the aforesaid premises considered, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter a judgment for Plaintiff and against the Defendants, and each of them jointly and severally, as follows:

A. Damages:

I. Damages for violations of the TCPA alleged:

<u>Count</u>	<u>Violations</u>
I	13
II	13
III	13
IV	13
V	1
VI	8

A total of 61 violations at \$500.00 per violation for damages of \$30,500.00, which amount shall be trebled because the violations were willful and/or knowing, for total damages of \$91,500.00.

ii. Damages for violations of the MHSSA alleged at Count VII: 13

violations at \$250.00 per violation, for damages of \$3,250.00;

The cumulative total amount of damages claimed in this action (exclusive of additional calls and violations to be ascertained during discovery) is \$94,750.00, and in the event of default judgment is the sum certain damages amount that will be sought.

B. An award of Plaintiff's taxable costs and disbursements incurred in the filing and prosecution of this action;

C. An injunction enjoining Defendants and/or Defendants' agents from initiating any telephone calls to Plaintiff's telephone numbers.

D. Interest accruing from the date of filing until paid at the statutory rate; and,

E. Such other and further relief as this Court deems necessary, reasonable, prudent and proper under the circumstances.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff makes demand for a jury trial as to all the issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: February 18, 2025

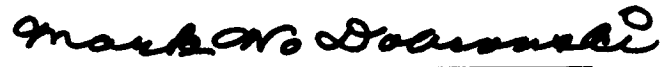
Mark W. Dobronski
Post Office Box 99
Dexter, Michigan 48130-0099
Telephone: (734) 641-2300
Email: markdobronski@yahoo.com
Plaintiff In Propria Persona

VERIFICATION

I, the undersigned, the Plaintiff in the above-captioned matter, declare that I have read the foregoing Complaint and know its contents. Further, I declare that the Complaint is true to my own knowledge, except as to matters therein stated on my own information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing verification is true and correct.

Dated: February 18, 2025


Mark W. Dobronski

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

MARK W. DOBRONSKI

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Orange, FL
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
MARK W. DOBRONSKI (Pro Se) (734) 641-2300
PO Box 99 markdobronski@yahoo.com
Dexter, MI 48130-0099

DEFENDANTS

BROOKESTONE FUNDING INC.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Kings, NY
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
☒ 3 Federal Question
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
☐ 4 Diversity
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
47 U.S.C. 227

Brief description of cause:
Illegal telemarketing calls

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$ 94,750.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE
February 18, 2025

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____

PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 83.11

1. Is this a case that has been previously dismissed?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, give the following information:

Court: _____

Case No.: _____

Judge: _____

2. Other than stated above, are there any pending or previously discontinued or dismissed companion cases in this or any other court, including state court? (Companion cases are matters in which it appears substantially similar evidence will be offered or the same or related parties are present and the cases arise out of the same transaction or occurrence.)

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, give the following information:

Court: _____

Case No.: _____

Judge: _____

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